

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 OMB-01 /058 W
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R 111710Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1613

INFO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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PASS TREASURY AND FRB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS EFIN. UK

SUBJECT: SIERRA LEONE DEBT

1. U.K. DELEGATE TO LAST WEEK'S PARIS CLUB SESSION ON ZAIRE AND SIERRA LEONE, MISS JOAN KELLEY. REPORTED TO HER SUPERIOR. MALCOLM WIDDUP' THAT THERE WERE SEVERAL APPROACHES MADE INCLUDING ONE BY U.S. DELEGATE SUGGESTING THE UK MIGHT SEEK CHAIRMANSHIP OF SIERRA LEONE CREDITORS GROUP RATHER THAN LEAVE IT IN FRENCH HANDS.

2. WIDDUP, UNDER SECRETARY IN H.M. TREASURY IN CHARGE OF DEBT RESCHEDULING, REPORTS THAT THE UK IS NOT PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO CHAIR THE GROUP BUT WILL "SERVE IF DRAFTED." HE QUESTIONED HOWEVER IMPACT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PROPOSAL IN NAIROBI THAT AN APPROPRIATE FORUM BE AGREED TO EXAMINE FINANCING AND DEBT RELIEF DIFFICULTIES. IF THERE IS INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF PARIS CLUB, UK INTEREST IN
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CHAIRING SIERRA LEONE EXERCISE IS CONSIDERABLY DIMINISHED.

HOWEVER. IF AN AD HOC GROUP ON SIERRA LEONE IS TO BE ESTABLISHED, WIDDUP ASKS IF THE U.S. WOULD BE INTERESTED IN TAKING THE CHAIR. IMPLICIT IN HIS REMARKS IS QUESTION OF STRENGTH OF U.S. VIEWS SHOULD THE UK DECIDE TO SEEK CHAIRMANSHIP OF SIERRA LEONE DEBT EXERCISE.

3. PLEASE ADVISE.

ARMSTRONG

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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